

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 RSC-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 SIL-01

OIC-04 L-03 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 /144 W

----- 114318

R 160945Z JAN 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3386

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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PASS COMMERCE AND LABOR

E.O.11652 NA

TAGS AORG ILO ELAB

SUBJ ILO-EAST-WEST TRADE UNION MEETING

1. GERD MUHR (FRG) CHAIRMAN OF WORKERS GROUP TO ILO EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE IS SLATED TO BE CHAIRMAN OF SUBJECT MEETING ON JANUARY 19.

2. CONFERENCE SEC. GEN. BLANCHARD TOLD LABATT THAT HE HAD INSTRUCTED ILO WORKER GROUP LIAISON OFFICER THAT NO WORKER DELEGATE OR ADVISOR ACCREDITED TO ILO REGIONAL CONFERENCE WAS TO BE EXCLUDED FROM THE SATURDAY MEETING. (COMMENT. IN ABSENCE OF PORTUGUESE DELEGATION FROM ILO CONFERENCE, BLANCHARD'S ACTION SHOULD MEAN THAT GREEK AND SPANISH WORKER DELEGATES COULD ATTEND IF THEY WISHED.)

3. HISTADRUTH REP YAGOL WHO IS ACCREDITED TO ILO REGIONAL CONFERENCE AS OBSERVER ASKED MUHR IF HE WOULD BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND JANUARY 19 TRADE UNION MEETING. MUHR TOLD HIM THAT HE WOULD NOT OBJECT IF YAGOL ATTENDED. HOWEVER, MUHR SAID THAT IT WAS PRIVATE MEETING AND IF ANYONE ELSE OBJECTED MUHR, AS CHAIRMAN, WOULD HAVE TO SUSTAIN THE OBJECTION.

4. REPORTEDLY DGB CHIEF VETTER IN LETTER OF JANUARY 12 ADDRESSED TO HEADS OF NATIONAL TRADE UNION CENTERS INVITED TO MEETING REJECTED IDEA OF ANY PERMANENT ARRANGEMENTS EMERGING FROM JANUARY 19 MEETING. HE SAID THAT ANY SUCH ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE DECIDED AT ETUC MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 24-25. VETTER REPORTEDLY DESCRIBED JANUARY 19 MEETING AS BEING WITHIN ILO STRUCTURE SUCH AS APARTHEID CONFERENCE AND ENVIRONMENT MEETING.

5. COMMENT. CHARACTER OF JANUARY 19 MEETING IN SUBSTANCE AND FORM REMAINS CLOUDY AND AMBIVALENT. WESTERN TRADE UNIONISTS DON'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY STRATEGY EXCEPT TO TRY TO KEEP MEETING IN LOW PROFILE. THEY APPEAR TO HAVE NO SUBSTANTIVE OBJECTIVES. EASTERN EUROPEANS ARE TRUMPETING COMING MEETING AS GREAT EUROPEAN EVENT. SOVIET WORKER DELEGATE PIMINOV CLOSED HIS ILO CONFERENCE PLENARY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SPEECH WITH RINGING REFERENCE TO UNPRECEDENTED JANUARY 19 MEETING OF EUROPEAN TRADE UNION LEADERS. SEEMS CLEAR THAT SOVIETS SEE BIG THINGS IN THIS MEETING AND HOPE TO PLANT SEEDS OF UNITY THAT WILL BLOSSOM AT LEAST PERENNIALY IN SOME KIND OF EAST-WEST ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE. VETTER'S REPORTED REJECTION OF THAT IDEA WILL BE IN FOR A STRONG CHALLENGE. FORM OF MEETING REMAINS AMBIVALENT. ON ONE HAND ICFTU WORKERS PASS IT OFF AS ROUTINE WORKERS GROUP MEETING. ON OTHER HAND THEY REFER TO IT AS SELECT PRIVATE MEETING (MUHR

COMMENT ABOVE). IT IS CLEAR THAT ICFTU WORKERS WISH TO PLAY DOWN
SIGNIFICANCE OF MEETING AND CLOAK IT AS ROUTINE, LOW PROFILE
GATHERING, BUT THEY ALSO WANT TO EXCLUDE WORKERS ACCREDITED TO
ILO REGIONAL CONFERENCE WHO WOULD NORMALLY ATTEND ROUTINE MEETINGS
OF WORKERS GROUP. IN ANY CASE, HOPES OF MASKING MEETING AS
ROUTINE AND KEEPING IT LOW PROFILE ARE DOOMED. SOVIETS WILL
EXPLOIT IT AS LANDMARK GATHERING AND STAMP IT WITH IMPRIMATUR OF
ILO.BASSIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EAST WEST TRADE, MEETINGS, LABOR UNIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974GENEVA00233
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740138/aaaabkcp.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAR 2002 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <11 APR 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ILO-EAST-WEST TRADE UNION MEETING
TAGS: AORG, ELAB, ILO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005